

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 443

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATORS SMITH, COLEMAN, CALLAHAN, NODLER AND LOUDON.

Read 1st time February 5, 2007, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

0870S.06I

AN ACT

To amend chapter 168, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the establishment of the teach for Missouri act.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 168, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new
2 section, to be known as section 168.700, to read as follows:

**168.700. 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the
2 "Teach for Missouri Act".**

3 2. As used in this section, the following terms shall mean:

**4 (1) "Department", the Missouri department of elementary and
5 secondary education;**

6 (2) "Eligible applicant": a high school senior who:

7 (a) Is a United States citizen;

**8 (b) Has a cumulative grade point average ranking in the top ten
9 percentile in their graduating class and scores in the top twenty
10 percentile on either the ACT or SAT assessment; or has a cumulative
11 grade point average ranking in the top twenty percentile in their
12 graduating class and scores in the top ten percentile of the ACT or SAT
13 assessment;**

**14 (c) Upon graduation from high school, attends a Missouri higher
15 education institution and attains a teaching certificate and either a
16 bachelors or graduate degree with a cumulative grade point average of
17 at least 3.0 on a 4 point scale or equivalent;**

**18 (d) Signs an agreement with the department in which the
19 applicant agrees to engage in qualified employment upon graduation
20 from a higher education institution for five years; and**

21 (e) Upon graduation from the higher education institution,

22 engages in qualified employment;

23 (3) "Qualified employment", employment as a teacher, as such
24 term is defined in section 168.104, in a school located in a school
25 district that is classified as "provisionally accredited" or "unaccredited"
26 by the department at the time the eligible applicant signs their first
27 contract to teach in such district. Applicants shall only teach subject
28 areas at schools within such school districts where the scores in the
29 subject areas at the school on the statewide assessment as provided in
30 section 160.518, RSMo, are lower than the state average. Preference
31 shall be given to a public school located in such school district, the
32 population of which includes a higher than average "at-risk student
33 population", as such term shall be defined by the department.

34 3. Within the limits of amounts appropriated therefor, the
35 department shall, upon proper verification to the department by an
36 eligible applicant and the school district in which the applicant is
37 engaged in qualified employment, enter into a one-year contract with
38 eligible applicants to repay the interest and principal on the
39 educational loans of the applicants as provided in subsection 4 of this
40 section. The department may enter into subsequent one-year contracts
41 with eligible applicants, not to total more than five such contracts. The
42 fifth one-year contract shall provide for a stipend to such applicants as
43 provided in subsection 4 of this section. If the school district becomes
44 accredited at any time during which the eligible applicant is teaching
45 at a school under a contract entered into pursuant to this section,
46 nothing in this section shall preclude the department and the eligible
47 applicant from entering into subsequent contracts to teach within the
48 school district. An eligible applicant who does not enter into a contract
49 with the department under the provisions of this subsection shall not
50 be eligible for repayment of educational loans or a stipend under the
51 provisions of subsection 4 of this section.

52 4. At the conclusion of each of the first four academic years that
53 an eligible applicant engages in qualified employment, one-fourth of the
54 eligible applicant's educational loans, not to exceed five thousand
55 dollars per year, shall be repaid under terms provided in the contract.
56 At the conclusion of the fifth academic year that an eligible applicant
57 engages in qualified employment, a stipend in an amount equal to one
58 thousand dollars shall be granted to the eligible applicant. The

59 maximum of five thousand dollars per year and the stipend of one
60 thousand dollars shall be adjusted annually by the same percentage as
61 the increase in the general price level as measured by the Consumer
62 Price Index for All Urban Consumers for the United States, or its
63 successor index, as defined and officially recorded by the United States
64 Department of Labor or its successor agency. The amount of any
65 repayment of educational loans under this subsection shall not exceed
66 the actual cost of tuition and required fees for the eligible applicant at
67 the institution of higher education from which the eligible applicant
68 graduated.

69 5. The department shall create and maintain a "Teach for
70 Missouri" coordinator position, the main responsibility of which shall
71 be the identification, recruitment, and selection of potential students
72 meeting the requirements of paragraph (b) of subdivision (2) of
73 subsection 2 of this section. In selecting potential students, the
74 coordinator shall give preference to applicants that represent a variety
75 of racial backgrounds in order to ensure a diverse group of eligible
76 applicants.

77 6. The department shall promulgate rules to enforce the
78 provisions of this section, including, but not be limited to: applicant
79 eligibility, selection criteria, and the content of loan repayment
80 contracts. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of
81 scholarships or revenues available, priority shall be to those applicants
82 with the most recent contract date.

83 7. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section
84 536.010, RSMo, that is created under the authority delegated in this
85 section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to
86 all of the provisions of chapter 536, RSMo, and, if applicable, section
87 536.028, RSMo. This section and chapter 536, RSMo, are nonseverable
88 and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to
89 chapter 536, RSMo, to review, to delay the effective date, or to
90 disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional,
91 then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or
92 adopted after August 28, 2007, shall be invalid and void.

93 8. There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Teach for
94 Missouri Fund". The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund and
95 shall approve disbursements from the fund in accordance with sections

96 30.170 and 30.180, RSMo. Private donations, federal grants, and other
97 funds provided for the implementation of this section shall be place in
98 the teach for Missouri fund. Upon appropriation, money in the fund
99 shall be used solely for the repayment of loans and the payment of
100 stipends under the provisions of this section. Notwithstanding the
101 provisions of section 33.080, RSMo, to the contrary, any moneys
102 remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the
103 credit of the general revenue fund. The state treasurer shall invest
104 moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are
105 invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be
106 credited to the fund.

107 9. The general assembly shall appropriate an amount necessary
108 to properly fund this section, not to exceed one million dollars in any
109 fiscal year. The maximum of one million dollars in any fiscal year shall
110 be adjusted annually by the same percentage as the increase in the
111 general price level as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All
112 Urban Consumers for the United States, or its successor index, as
113 defined and officially recorded by the United States Department of
114 Labor or its successor agency.

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